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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

Note by the Secretariat

By its resolution 1997/21, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family". The text of the draft resolution is reproduced below.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 December 1993 and 50/142 of 21 December 1995, concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, particularly at the national and local levels,

Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and society at large,



1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of the Family¹ and welcomes the proposals contained therein;
2. Invites Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, inter alia, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;
3. Emphasizes the need for a more focused and coordinated approach towards family issues within the United Nations system;
4. Calls upon Governments, non-governmental organizations, other organizations of civil society, the private sector and individuals to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities;
5. Urges Governments to take sustained action at all levels concerning families, including studies and applied research on families, and to promote the role of families in development and invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;
6. Recommends that all relevant actors in civil society, including research and academic institutions, contribute to and participate in actions on families;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies, to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional meetings and relevant research;
8. Calls upon Governments to encourage the active follow-up to the International Year of the Family at the national and local levels;
9. Reaffirms Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7, in which the Council decided that the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be an integral part of the multi-year work programme of the Commission for Social Development.

¹ A/52/57-E/1997/4.